

2025



**Pesticide
Action
Network**
Europe

**ACTIVITY
REPORT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Major Accomplishments
- ▶ EU Policy and Justice on Pesticides in 2025
- ▶ Emerging Pesticides topics in 2025
- ▶ Inside PAN Europe



INTRODUCTION



Year in brief

In 2025, PAN Europe played a key role in prioritising the protection of human health and the environment. We encouraged EU institutions to strengthen - rather than weaken - rules on pesticides and water pollution, resisting industry-driven deregulation. We solidified our position as the leading NGO in terms of policy, legal and scientific expertise. Through our legal work, we secured major clarifications from the EU Court on how the European Commission and Member States must implement the law.

In parallel, our campaign on PFAS pesticides encouraged certain Member States to take regulatory actions against 'forever pesticides'. Thanks to our whistleblowing, the PFAS metabolite TFA is moving towards classification as "toxic to reproduction" and has been included in the list of chemicals to be monitored in surface waters across Europe. In 2025, we also brought awareness to the critical need to protect arthropods, a cornerstone of biodiversity and natural crop protection. By launching our campaign on retailers, we ventured into new territory by involving the private sector in the drive towards pesticide reduction.

All this was made possible thanks to our growing body of motivated members, as well as our expanding network of other allies and partners, with whom we are delighted to see our collaboration increasing over the years.

Dr Martin Dermine
Executive Director of PAN Europe



Quote from the President

Over the past year, PAN Europe has addressed numerous critical issues. At the end of 2025, the Omnibus deregulation process started. Together with our members and partners, we raised awareness of this "Christmas gift" to industry from the EU Commission. We are also proud of our achievements regarding PFAS pesticides, where the PAN network acted as a trustworthy whistleblower, highlighting the risks and hazards posed by PFAS pesticides and their toxic metabolite, TFA.

While we have achieved significant positive results, both at the Member States level and in European policy decisions, the fight for a pesticide-free future continues. We are fortunate to have a dedicated team in Brussels, a robust membership network, and committed partners across Europe. Only by working together can we achieve our goals. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Koen Hertoge
president PAN Europe



About PAN Europe

Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Europe is an independent, expert-based organisation which exposes the harms of pesticides and promotes sustainable alternatives. A growing network with now 57 member organisations across Europe, we work in a rigorous, scientific, legal and evidence-based manner, supporting farmers in reducing their dependency on pesticides and assisting regulators in enabling this transition. To achieve a pesticide-free future, we conduct scientific research, lead court cases, and engage with European policymakers, while supporting local citizens' initiatives. Our work helps to protect our health and the environment, while promoting safer and more resilient farming practices.

Video: [PAN Europe's vision](#)

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



1. Historic win: bye-bye, Flufenacet!

The EU has finally banned one of Europe's most toxic and widespread pesticides. For years, PAN Europe had called for an end to this endocrine-disrupting PFAS chemical and major TFA-metabolite polluter of our water. TFA is highly persistent, very mobile and, as PAN revealed recently, may cause harm to reproduction, early-life development and thyroid function. Stopping its emissions into the environment is, therefore, urgent. Our persistence paid off, and represents a critical step forward in safeguarding human health and ecosystems: not only will it stop the agricultural spreading of a PFAS endocrine disruptor but it also helps to reduce accumulation of the "forever chemical" TFA in drinking water, food, and human bodies. This should soon be followed by a ban of all pesticides from within the same family. Thanks to our interventions, deliberately spraying PFAS pesticides on our food and into the environment should very soon become a relic of a toxic past.

Read more: [EU Member States agree to ban Flufenacet](#)

2. Justice proved us right

In 2025, justice sided with us in important rulings, both nationally and at European level, when the highest administrative court in The Netherlands came to a verdict which carried direct consequences for the responsibility of EU Member States, who must now ensure a better evaluation of pesticides. Furthermore, the EU Court slammed on the brakes of the European Commission when they had attempted to automatically extend the approval of pesticides. The Court also agreed with PAN Europe that the toxic cypermethrin was illegally re-approved. In a significant step forward, the EU Court clarified Member States' obligation to carry out a full risk assessment of every single co-formulant present in pesticides. We are delighted to celebrate such important wins thanks to our years of legal work, which is protecting people from highly toxic pesticides while setting stronger legal precedents that close the regulatory loopholes long-exploited by the agrochemical industry.

Read more: [PAN Europe Legal Action](#)

3. An end to unlawful derogations for pesticides in Romania

For over a decade, Romania has walked the fringes of EU law, with no less than 12 abusive emergency derogations in order to use banned neonicotinoids that devastate bee populations. But for the first time, the EU finally stepped in, with the Commission launching an infringement proceeding against Romania - based, in fact, on a ruling from the EU Court won by PAN Europe in 2023. After years of inaction, a beam of hope shines through for local bees. The proceeding offers a lifeline to collapsing pollinator populations, protects the food systems that depend on them, and sends a resonating warning to every Member State.

Read more: [European Commission launches its first ever infringement procedure](#)

EU POLICY AND JUSTICE ON PESTICIDES IN 2025



1. Landmark year for European Justice: putting a stop to toxic practices

Last year the European Court of Justice drew the line at some key malpractices from the EU and Member States that allow toxic pesticides in the market.

- **Science over politics.** The Court of Justice dismantled the unlawful re-approval of cypermethrin, reminding the EU Commission that deviating from the conclusions from EFSA's risk assessment must be sufficiently motivated and based on science - not convenience. [Read more](#)
- **No more hidden toxics.** The General Court of the EU clarified that EU countries must demand toxicity data for co-formulants (substances added to pesticide mixtures which are often very toxic yet vastly underestimated and not evaluated). If there is no data about it, national authorisation of the pesticide in question should not be granted, the court confirmed. [Read more](#)
- **Against "auto-pilot" extensions.** The EU Court ruled on the automatic extension of pesticides approvals: this decision should limit the unfortunately recurrent practice of extending the authorisations for pesticides year after year, without a proper evaluation of the consequences. [Read more](#)

We took these cases to court and won, either in full or in part. With your help, we are [fighting against the use of glyphosate](#), with a Court hearing due in summer 2026, to ensure use of this toxic chemical becomes a bad memory. Justice does not happen by chance - it happens because we work for it.

2. Court victories at national level that can resonate with other EU countries

PAN Europe had opposed the authorisation of Dagonis (difenoconazole) in the Netherlands, an agricultural fungicide that can cause serious developmental effects on babies and toddlers, even in very low doses. While the Dutch authorities challenged our objection, the court ruled in our favour. This landmark decision sets a paradigm-shifting precedent for other EU countries, which **must now take into account all available scientific information when authorising a substance**. [Read more](#)

We had another victory in Belgium, where the Council of State cancelled the authorisations granted to three abamectin-based pesticides. This substance is highly toxic to the environment and suspected to be dangerous to our genome. We, with our members [Nature et Progrès](#) and [Bond Beter Leefmilieu](#), had launched the case following a 15-year extension of authorisations for uses outdoors and in tunnels, despite the European Commission having restricted their use to closed greenhouses only. [Read more](#)



Pr. Antoine Bailleux (Professor of EU Law, UCLouvain) and Dr. Martin Dermine (PAN Europe Executive Director), hearing on the Cypermethrin re-approval.

3. Campaigns to influence EU policymakers

PAN Europe launched a public mobilisation drive to encourage citizens to support the European Commission's National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme within the framework of the implementation of the Nature Restoration Regulation. This Scheme will lead to the proper monitoring of pollinator populations by Member States, finally facilitating the production of harmonised data on trends of pollinator populations and evaluation of conservation programmes. Our campaign resulted in over 4,000 citizen responses, leading to the adoption of the file and a high quality monitoring scheme.

The year ended with the Commission's Omnibus proposal to allow for time-unlimited approval of pesticide substances. Our pushback campaign mobilised citizens across Europe, with EU Commissioners receiving some 20,000 messages full of demands for a pesticide-free Europe. This is not an isolated success; our past campaigns - two European Citizens Initiatives and the Pesticide Reduction Law (SUR) Campaign - have helped to build a stronger anti-pesticides movement across Europe. The campaign against the Omnibus will continue until policymakers listen to the overwhelming majority of European citizens.

Read more:

[130+ organisations urge von der Leyen to strengthen enforcement of EU pesticide law - Join us](#)



Hands-on team workshop at the 'Le Champ du Chaudron' farm (Brussels)

4. Action against PFAS pesticides

One of the key goals for PAN Europe last year was the call to ban PFAS pesticides and TFA, which is by far the most frequently detected PFAS in our environment and is contaminating our drinking water. Raising awareness of the problem, we organised high-level discussions with scientists and policymakers, and organised events at the European Parliament, including in Copenhagen in the frame of the Danish presidency of the Council. We took concrete steps to urge the authorities into action, submitting a legal complaint to the Commission, obliging them to respond. If no action is taken, we plan to take the matter to the EU Court.

Conference: [Reducing pesticides, eliminating PFAS pesticides, protecting water \(Denmark\)](#)

Conference: [Regulating PFAS pesticides: Ensuring clean water for future generations](#)

Complaint: [PAN Europe demands EU Commission to act on PFAS pesticides](#)

5. The EU strengthens pesticides monitoring in European waters

EU water policy became a hot topic in 2025, as the new Parliament and Commission sought to roll back efforts to strengthen pollution monitoring and prevention, including from pesticides. PAN Europe and other European NGOs publicly criticised the lack of ambition within the Commission's Water Resilience Strategy, and the Parliament's resolution, which had focused largely on new technologies for clean-up rather than cutting pollution at source. After three years of negotiations, the EU institutions finally reached an agreement in September 2025 to update the Water Framework Directive and its daughter directives on groundwater and Environmental Quality Standards. Thanks to PAN Europe and our network, neurotoxic and bee-harming pesticides, along with TFA, must now be regularly monitored in water sources.

Press Release: [EU deal on water pollution: no action, extreme delay](#)

Press Release: [European Water Resilience Strategy: sinking ambitions on pesticide pollution](#)

Press Release: [The European Parliament calls for action on chemical water pollution, including pesticides](#)



Dr Angeliki Lysimachou, Head of Science and Policy (PAN Europe), with EU policymakers in a demonstration to call on clean water

EMERGING PESTICIDE TOPICS IN 2025



1. TFA pervading our water, bread, cereals and wine

In 2025 we coordinated research and authored reports including *Message from the bottle: TFA in wine* and *TFA in cereals*. Our assessment of TFA in conventional cereal-based foods like bread, porridge and breakfast cereals revealed alarming contamination levels across 16 countries, demonstrating that diet is a major pathway to human exposure. Since authorities do not monitor TFA in food, these findings were among the first of their kind at EU level. The lack of urgency in addressing TFA contamination stems from [deliberate, calculated industry efforts to downplay its toxicity](#).

"Pesticides that emit TFA must be urgently banned. We cannot allow children and pregnant women to be exposed to chemicals that we know harm their reproductive health," said **Salomé Roynel**, Policy & Campaign Officer at PAN Europe.

Report: [Unseen and Unregulated: TFA, the 'forever chemical' in Europe's Cereals](#)

Report: [The worrying rise of TFA in cereal products: The Forever Chemical in our Daily Bread](#)

Report: [Message from the bottle: The Rapid Rise of TFA Contamination Across the EU](#)

Report: [Manufacturing Doubt: How Industry Downplays TFA's Toxicity](#)

2. Export of EU-banned pesticides: too toxic here, too toxic everywhere

PAN Europe brought together a broad coalition of over 600 international organisations from across the world, united in their call for the European Commission to stop exporting pesticides banned in the EU to Lower and Middle-Income Countries. This built global pressure to end the EU's double standards which accord less value to human health and environment in regions that lie beyond its own borders. Last year, standing alongside farmers and organisations directly affected by this exposure, we held protests outside EU institutions' buildings. As part of this effort, we launched the "Return to Sender" campaign to hold the Commission to account for allowing and normalising this dangerous practice.

"The Commission is caving in on its promise to stop European companies profiting from selling cancer-causing, fertility-damaging, brain-harming pesticides banned in the EU to countries with weaker safety laws. Alternatives exist - what is missing is the political will to put the protection of health and natural resources above private profits," said **Angeliki Lysimachou**, Head of Science and Policy at PAN Europe.

Read more:

Campaign: [Return to Sender: toxic EU trade in banned pesticides should end](#)



End Toxic Pesticide Trade Coalition's protest in front of the EU Parliament

3. Protect bees and bugs

With bees and bugs facing silent but mass extinction driven by industrial farming and increasing pesticide use, PAN Europe advanced our campaign to protect insects and other arthropods. Publishing our manifesto, "Protecting Arthropods: A call for urgent reform in EU pesticide regulation", we also organised a public action in front of EU institutions to raise the alarm about biodiversity loss and the critical need for stronger pesticide regulation. We arranged captivating interviews with scientists to look into this giant threat to biodiversity, keeping a close eye on the new European guidelines on arthropods in an ongoing effort to ensure that they are protected from pesticides.

"It would be extremely sad if our children can no longer enjoy fluttering butterflies or humming bumblebees in the fields. But there is more: fertile soil and crop pollination depend on these little creatures, so the future of our farmers and our food security is at stake." said **Lysiane Copin**, Policy Officer at PAN Europe.

Campaign: [Restore biodiversity - protect bees and bugs](#)

Manifesto: [Protecting Arthropods: A call for urgent reform in EU pesticide regulation](#)



NGO protest at EU Commission: Ban toxic pesticides exports and save biodiversity

4. Ban neurotoxic pesticides

Last year, we continued our fight against neurotoxic pesticides, which can threaten the neurological development of young children and cause devastating, life-altering diseases such as Parkinson's. Along with our members, we called on the Commission to ban the neurotoxic and bee-killing pesticide acetamiprid, and demanded the immediate withdrawal of the pesticide and biocide deltamethrin to prevent any further harm to unborn children. Recent scientific studies have revealed low doses of the insecticide cause brain damage in offspring related to learning and memory, relevant to the human autism spectrum.

Our brains, and those of future generations, deserve continued, unwavering protection.

Press release: [We ask the European Commission to ban neurotoxic acetamiprid at once](#)

Press release: [Pesticide deltamethrin causes brain damage in offspring at 'safe' dose](#)

Campaign: [Save our brain](#)

5. Farming beyond pesticides: success stories from the field

In parallel with addressing the problems we face, we are also committed to demonstrating that a future without pesticides is not only feasible but would create a much more promising outlook for farmers, citizens and the environment. Our report showcases examples of farmers across Europe who have significantly reduced their pesticide use or eliminated it entirely; they share their stories with us of how this approach has numerous benefits for nature and the soil, and can also be more profitable.

Read more: [Farming beyond pesticides: success stories from the field](#)



Organic orchard visit in Flanders, Belgium

INSIDE PAN EUROPE

Board Members:

Koen Hertoge
President

David Cary
Treasurer

Nick Mole
Secretary

Andrzej Nowakowski
Member

Seda Orhan
Member

François Veillerette
Member

Paula Silva
Member

Koldo Hernández
Member

Laurent Gaberell
Member

Bob Tomori
Member



Staff

Management:

Dr Martin Dermine
Executive Director

Katerina Iordanopoulou
Operations Manager

Dr Angeliki Lysimachou
Head of Science and Policy

Tjerk Dalhuisen
Senior Communications Officer

Communications and Press:

Tjerk Dalhuisen
Senior Communications Officer

Maria Fernández Sánchez
Press Officer

Emilie Ballivián
Junior Communications Officer

Campaign and Policy Work:

Hans Muilerman
Chemicals Coordinator

Barbara Berardi
Senior Policy Officer,
Biodiversity

Salomé Roynel
Policy & Campaign Officer

Rina Guadagnini
Senior Policy Officer

Gergely Simon
Liaison Officer

Manon Rouby
Policy Officer & Legal Adviser

Natalija Svrtan
Campaigner and
Membership Officer

Kristine De Schampelaere
Policy Officer

Lysiane Copin
Policy & Campaign Assistant

Marina Boulerou
Administration Assistant

Katie O'Reilly-Boyles
Fundraising Officer

Juliette Perrinet
Policy & Campaign Intern

Pauline Ronnet
Policy & Campaign Intern

Sarah Costes
Policy & Campaign Intern

Members: See full list [here](#).

Questions? Please contact us at communications@pan-europe.info